Emasculation of the Unicorn

To deconstruct a familiar fairytale is to unearth buried treasure that can reveal the inner workings of human culture. That's what Jungian psychologist C.T.B. Harris does with "The Tinder Box" by Hans Christian Andersen. The process uncovers some startling truths about masculinity in America. —Stuart B. Chapman

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The individuation process is the process of becoming an "in-dividual" through self-realization and unfolds over our entire lifespan. Self-realization results from the expansion of conscious awareness and the continuous growth of consciousness. In the tenor of individuation, conscious awareness includes the efforts to know as much as possible about our whole selves — including our instincts, bodies, emotions, and conscious and unconscious minds. For our individuation process to take place, our conscious personality must develop and become a conduit for our self-realization. Another reason I like the term individuation is because it goes beyond our normal psychological descriptions of self-actualization, personality integration, and ego-conscious personality and ego-consciousness (even though it reunites us with the community. Jung considered this process a natural process and the goal of life. If we pursue this process with diligence and self-honesty he thought that we would perceive the pattern of our life, and through this perception receive an impression of the center of our being that he termed the Self.

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This tale illustrates the journey men must go through to reach full maturity. We see that a man must ruthlessly divest himself of psychic domination first by his mother, then his father, and then the negative pressures of the culture. During this process, he must carefully discriminate what is necessary and not necessary, and be willing to bear

the ups and downs of his progression. He must develop his authentic and independent conscious identity, grounded and rooted in his instinctual and shadow sides. One this development is accomplished, he may then relate to his feminine side as it has evolved. This side can add life, creativity, eros and balance to his masculine qualities of logos, strength and action. The combination of the masculine and the feminine gives him the potential for strength, action, wisdom, compassion, and tenderness.